

contained within the key so that the keyboards of subminiature devices and the like can be simply and accurately depressed.

Applicant respectfully traverses the above rejections.

It is respectfully submitted that the Satloff patent has little to do with the invention of the present invention and that it does not disclose or suggest Applicant's invention. More specifically, Satloff discloses a simplified keyboard arrangement for use by a child. This simplified arrangement has a key array arranged to facilitate interaction between the child and the computer device. To provide a suitable keyboard for children, Satloff suggests a key setup that is suitable for infants due to their narrower field of view. To implement this the keys are arranged in three rows with the keys spaced by some 1 to 4 inches (Col. 6, line 43, of the patent). The keys are "large enough" (line 52) so that a child is unlikely to miss it with his finger. The keys are coded in any manner recognizable to a child, such as shapes, colors, textures, sizes etc. (Col. 6, line 56).

The simplified keyboard arrangement taught by Satloff is not intended for efficient data entry. It is not optimized for efficient general purpose data entry by normal adults (as explained by Satloff himself in Col. 5, line 45, of the patent).

Satloff's simplified keyboard is certainly not an associative keyboard as is the keyboard of the present invention. The keys of Satloff's keyboard (such as in Example 1, marked by the Examiner) are presented in shapes known to a child, such as a star, circle, square, animal head, etc.

The Applicant does not claim rights over a keyboard with keys having simplified shapes such as a star, square, circle, etc. Some or all of the keys in the present invention have unique shapes of parts of characters, and as such have never been previously disclosed. It is this characteristic that is novel and unique in the present invention. The user enters a character (a complete character, that is, even though the key has only the shape of a part of the character) by pressing on a key that has the shape of a part of that character.

Satloff does not suggest presenting keys whose shapes are parts of the actual shape of the character or symbol that is to be entered.

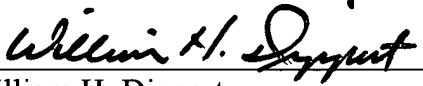
The arrangement of the keys and their grouping on the keyboard of the present invention is not merely a design choice. Rather, their shapes and groupings are important for the overall shape that they present to the user in order to help him find the desired key that he wishes to press in order to enter the desired character.

The arrangement of the keys and their shapes are directly related to the shapes of characters in the particular language of the keyboard.

The deficiencies of Satloff are not overcome by either of Yang or Fischer. Therefore, the claims herein are not disclosed or suggested by the references cited and the rejections under § 102(b) or 103(a) should be withdrawn.

Reconsideration and allowance of the claims herein are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted



William H. Dippert
Reg. No. 26,723

Reed Smith LLP
599 Lexington Avenue, 29th Floor
New York, New York 10022
(212) 521-5408